

which prevailed here during the months of August and September. This will be seen from the number of deaths in each month. In January, one; in February, two; in March, one; in April, two; in May, one; in June, one; in July, three; in August, seventeen; in September, twelve; in October, two; in November, three, and in December, one. Thus it will be seen that the epidemic was mostly confined to August and September. With the exception of these months, we have but seventeen deaths in town during the year. This epidemic—the dysentery—has never before been known to prevail in this town. The same thing may be seen from the various causes which have produced it, and their relative number. They are as follows: Four infants, whose disease was unknown; croup, two; pleurisy, one; parturition, one; inflammation of bowels, one; chronic rheumatism, two; consumption, one; fever, two; worms, one; lung-fever, one; old age, one; asthma, one; cholera-morbus, two; dysentery, twenty-six. Thus it will be seen that the greatest number of deaths has been caused by this disease, and that, aside from this, no one disease has prevailed—two being the highest number from any other disease. It will also be seen, from the following statement, that this disease has proved most fatal among children. Died, during the past year, at the age of five, and younger, nineteen; between five and twenty, seven; between twenty and forty, nine; between forty and sixty, four; and from sixty and older, seven. There have been nearly as many deaths among children of five years old and

younger, as those of all other ages. With these facts before us, it is extremely difficult to form any conclusion as to the *cause* of this unusual mortality. Many things have been conjectured, but it is evident that no one cause can account for it. A variety of circumstances expose the system to disease. The same epidemic prevailed during the last season in many parts of our country, and in its healthiest localities. But, whatever may have been the immediate cause, we know there is one First Great Cause, who rules all intermediate causes. Sickness and death are at His disposal. In His hands are all the springs of life.¹

NO. IV.

This township is elevated from sixteen to seventeen hundred feet above tide-water. The following table, prepared with much care, for the different months of the years 1846 and 1849, will show the character of the seasons, temperature and variations: